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Grieving students leave Beijing, for Hong Kong

By Michael Chute

HONG KONG (BP) — Not wanting to leave Beijing but not wanting to be stranded either, two Southern Baptist students boarded a plane at the crowded Beijing International Airport June 8 and arrived safely in Hong Kong.

Frustration and grief over events inside China lined the faces of the two students — Jay Templeton and Jana Clayton — as they met family and friends in Hong Kong.

Both expressed mixed emotions about leaving Beijing and said they want to return to China as soon as the situation there stabilizes.

"I never felt like we should leave in the first place," said Templeton, of Kingsland, Texas, who hopes to return to China this fall. Clayton added that the decision to evacuate all Americans from China was "bizarre" and called reports of danger to foreigners "a little exaggerated."

But both admitted mainland news reports of the violence were understated by the Chinese media.

"Inside China we didn't get all the facts. We only got Chinese news," said Clayton, who is from Longmont, Colo. "China needs to know the truth. The world knows but the Chinese people themselves don't."

Templeton has another year on his two-year contract to study Chinese at the Second Foreign Language Institute in Beijing under sponsorship of Cooperative Services International, a Southern Baptist organization.

Clayton, also sponsored by CSI, had almost finished her two-year stint at the institute.

The decision to leave Beijing was "painful but we felt that most of those

we were a help to" had already left the language institute, said Clayton. The two Americans also worried that they "might be in the way" of their Chinese friends and acquaintances. "By protecting us they might be endangering their own lives," Clayton explained.

"Staying there to help the people would be useless," concluded Templeton.

Templeton and Clayton gave eyewitness accounts of events in China.

Although many Chinese students were not involved in the pro-democracy demonstrations, the two said, most students made trips to Tiananmen Square in the days prior to the bloody army attack on student demonstrators there.

"But we didn't go down there again after the Statue of Liberty ('Goddess of Democracy' built by Chinese students) was erected or the violence started," explained Templeton.

As pro-democracy Chinese demonstrations successfully halted the progress of one convoy of trucks on the boulevard in front of the language institute, fellow Chinese students and teachers asked Templeton to talk to the soldiers.

"They literally pushed me to the back of one of the trucks and there I was looking at a truckload of soldiers pointing guns at me," he recalled.

Not sure what to say, Templeton said he merely stated, "The soldiers love the Chinese students," which evoked laughter from the crowd.

"I told them that working through peaceful ends was a much better solution. When I finished someone said, 'See, even the foreigner understands!'"

One soldier close to me smiled. He was the only one that I saw show any emotion."

Clayton added that she "knew we shouldn't get involved but we wanted to see what was going on. We decided to leave that area because it was getting very tense."

They told of vivid scenes on Beijing streets as soldiers beat students and students threw rocks at convoys of army trucks and marching soldiers.

Clayton witnessed a verbal confrontation between a large group of student demonstrators and a smaller group of soldiers. Beside the street, a peasant woman was "digging on her rows of onions in the midst of all this."

There were students and soldiers all around her but she was totally ignoring it. She acted like there wasn't another person anywhere around."

Paranoia gripped the Chinese students after martial law was declared May 20, the two Americans said. Until that time, Tiananmen Square was "a big party," said Templeton. "It was a very festive mood there."

After the declaration of martial law, "They were not wanting to talk to foreigners then," Clayton said. "A lot of people, especially older people, remember the Cultural Revolution, so I don't blame them."

Both said the Chinese student demonstrators' idea of democracy and what Americans think of democracy are different.

"People weren't wanting to overthrow the government," Templeton explained. "When they talked about democracy, they were talking about democracy within the Communist Party. They wanted to be loyal to the government, loyal to the party, and therefore loyal to China."

Now after the violence . . . It's a really crazy time now. Nobody understands what the government is doing and why."

Language institute officials took the two Southern Baptist students to the Holiday Inn Lido hotel on the outskirts of Beijing to await a flight out. Lodging was arranged by a Christian businessman residing in the hotel complex.

Both young people said they are not emotionally ready to return to the United States. They will stay in Hong Kong to see what options might be available.

Templeton, whose parents are Southern Baptist missionaries in Hong Kong, is concerned for those he left behind. "We have no idea what is going to happen to the Chinese friends we left in Beijing," he lamented. "China has no certainty right now."

"All they're talking about now is a way to get out of the country. A lot of people are suffering, in despair, and looking for hope. I feel we needed to be there longer to tell people where our hope is coming from."

Chute writes for FMB.



Thai boy and father

Next Sunday is Father's Day.

In a Thai village, a father and child share a close moment. The child is wearing a cap of the Yao tribe. All over the world families of all races and creeds, like this one, share joys and frustrations. But only through the love of Jesus Christ can their lives have meaning. Southern Baptists are working with other evangelical groups to reach the whole world with the gospel by the year 2000. (FMB) PHOTO By Don Rutledge

Updated Bible heads to Spanish world

By Art Toalston

EL PASO, Texas (BP) — An updated version of the Bible in Spanish is making its debut after 10 years in the making.

The new version, the Reina-Valera Actualizada, is being published under the Spanish World label of the Baptist Spanish Publishing House, an El Paso, Texas, arm of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

It is the first revision in nearly 30 years of the Reina-Valera, the Bible widely used among Spanish-speaking evangelicals. The Reina-Valera, the first Spanish translation of the Bible, dates back to 1569, predating the English King James Version.

The revision of the Reina-Valera is probably the largest undertaking in the 84-year history of the publishing house, officials said. About 200 contributors were involved in the project.

And it is an outgrowth of the publishing house's commitment in the mid-1970s to increase its contribution to Bible publishing among the world's 250 million Spanish-speaking people, officials said.

However, the revision is not exclusively a Baptist undertaking. Two of the project's 10 major editors, for example, were husband-and-wife Presbyterian professors from Venezuela; a third was a Peruvian member of the Christian and Missionary Alliance.

Rounding the major editors were six Baptists; husband-and-wife professors from Spain; a Chilean Bible scholar and one from Argentina; and three Southern Baptist missionaries.

Joe Poe, a 33-year missionary, led the revision as well as the earlier study Bible project. He is director of the publishing house's Bible and commentaries department.

During the next six weeks, the Reina-Valera Actualizada will begin appearing in bookstores in Spain and 18 Spanish-speaking countries of Latin America, as well as Baptist Book Stores in the United States, said Laverne Gregory, the publishing house's sales director. The publishing house also will make it available to other evangelical bookstores in the Americas and about 40 countries around the world.

The first 1,000 copies of the Reina-Valera Actualizada were flown to El Paso from the printer in England for sale during a May 19 dedication service.

Among the Reina-Valera Actualizada's distinctives, Poe said, is its use of gleanings from the Dead Sea Scrolls and other ancient Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic texts not previously incorporated into any Spanish-language revision. The new text is based on a 1909 revision, one of more than a dozen in four centuries.

The American Bible Society did a revision in 1960.

The Reina-Valera name stems from the 1569 work of Casiodoro de Reina to translate the Bible into the common language of the people and the first revision of the translation by Cipriano de Valera in 1602. Both men were Spanish monks who had fled Spain to avoid death during the Spanish Inquisition.

A man had two sons

By Billy G. Johnson
Luke 15:11

"A man had two sons." Oh, the blessedness! The psalmist declared in Psalm 127:5, "Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them." It is difficult to express the joys and happinesses which children bring into a family. They bring laughter; they bring excitement; they bring challenge; they bring most of the things which makes family meaningful. Without children there would be no family, no human race. If one generation should fail to bear children, there would be no peoples on the earth in just a little over a century. They are our survival! They are our future!

"A man had two sons." Oh, this responsibility! No greater stewardship is given to parents than the responsibility of guiding children into adulthood. Daddies make mistakes; we are human; we do the best we can. Sometimes our children go "into the far country." But, when we do the best we can to direct them in the way they should go, we have been faithful to our stewardship. Daddies have the responsibility to teach spiritual truths to their children "from a child." To "bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" is our responsibility.

"A man had two sons." Oh, the rewards! To experience the rewards of sharing forgiveness with the erring child, to experience the rewards of welcoming the erring child back into family fellowship is reward aplenty for being a parent. The rewards of sharing in the achievements, the accomplishments of one's children are extra rewards. To have them "rise up and call you blessed" is the ultimate!

Johnson is pastor, Dixie Church, Hattiesburg.



Johnson



Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



India marries Taiwan in wedding at Midway

The May 27 wedding at Midway Baptist Church, Jackson, was a bit out of the ordinary. The bride and groom had traveled halfway around the world to find each other. Their story intrigues me, and I wish I could have gone to the wedding, but I only met them last week.

Three years ago Edward Shimray left his home in Nagaland, India; a year later, Shary Linn said goodbye to Taipei, Taiwan — both to study in America. Their paths crossed at Reformed Theological Seminary in west Jackson, Mississippi, and joined at the altar of Midway Church.

Edward had felt the call to follow in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, both Baptist ministers. Several generations ago, his family had migrated to India from China, and there his grandfather had become one of the first three converts to Christianity in the village, and the village's first Baptist minister. After Edward was graduated from Patkai Christian College and Jawaharlal Nehru University at New Delhi (with a master of arts degree from the latter) he enrolled at Reformed Seminary. He received a master of divinity degree there last month.

Shary, a Taipei native, a graduate

of Taipei University, and a Christian for 15 years, also felt called to serve God in a special way, so she entered Reformed Seminary to study Bible and English.

When at the seminary the two met and began dating, he promised to help her with the study of Greek; now they confess they didn't spend a lot of time studying! As their interest in each other deepened to love, and as they prayed together for God's guidance, they became more and more convinced it was he who had brought them together and that they could serve him better as a team than they could apart, in separate nations.

"God had given me a vision," said Shary, "of helping a group of people in whatever way I could, physically and spiritually — and especially in training them to reach out and make disciples. I did not know where these people would be. I thought it might be on another island, or on mainland China."

As Edward described the people he hoped to serve, she said she knew these were the people of her vision. On completion of their studies in the United States, they plan to go to India, where Edward will be headmaster, and teach Bible, in a Christian boys'

school. He will also preach the Gospel. Shary will teach English in the school and work in a BSU-type situation with students and new Christians. "Nagaland is 96% Christian," Edward said, with more Christians than in any part of India. But they hope, he said, to train youth leaders to reach out and witness there and in other parts of the country, to the many Muslims and Hindus.

When they wrote their parents of their wedding plans, his expressed their joy. Hers were not happy that she was going to live far away in India. However, her father, who has become a Christian since Shary has been in the U.S., came to the wedding. When he met Edward, he sent his wife word to stop worrying, that the marriage was all they had hoped for their daughter.

Since Edward had been working in the Children's Church at Midway, the church helped with the wedding, so it cost the young couple no more than \$100. The women of the church arranged for and served in the reception. Many loaned various items — even the wedding dress. David Wilkinson, pastor, performed the ceremony. Shu-Chin Wu of Taiwan was bridesmaid. Andy Coleman of Florida, Edward's roommate at the seminary, was best man. The bride was given in marriage by her father.

For the past few months, Shary has lived at the Clinton home of Mrs. Harry McCollum, a member of First (Continued on page 4)



New Work Specialists from left are, front row: W. F. (Pete) Evans; J. Courtney Selvy; Lavon Hatten; second row: John Stanley; James Bryant; Grady Collins; Joe Weaver.

New work specialists: "available upon request"

New work specialists are individuals who have agreed to assist in the nine areas of Mississippi, especially in the area of new work emphasis. This includes conducting probes and other types of surveys, working in relationship to associational and church missions development programs, assisting with new site locations, chapel locations and maintenance observations and in general to assist the staff of the Cooperative Missions Department as it relates to the directors of missions and the local churches. Recently, John Stanley, Pete Evans, and J. Courtney Selvy were asked to serve with the group that had already been serving which includes Lavon Hatten, James Bryant, Grady Collins, and Joe

Weaver. In Area 1, J. Courtney Selvy is available. In Area 2, Joe Weaver is available. In Area 3, Lavon Hatten serves. In Area 4, Grady Collins serves. In Area 5, John Stanley and in Area 6, W. F. "Pete" Evans is available. The staff serves at large in Area 7 and James Bryant is covering Areas 8 and 9 but beginning in the fall, Miss Dottie Williamson, a Home Mission Board church planter, who is serving the Pearl River Association, will also serve as the new work specialist for Area 9.

All of these people have had training both in the state and at Home Mission Board conferences in order to be specialists in their areas and are available upon request when needed by any who desire their services.

State gifts total \$1,856,713 in May

Gifts from Mississippi Baptist churches through the Cooperative Program totaled \$1,857,713 in May, lessening the pro rata deficit by \$182,419, according to an announcement by Earl Kelly, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

This means that the total giving for the year, \$7,992,107, is only \$454,368 less than that projected on a monthly basis.

Each Mississippi Baptist Conven-

tion budget is voted during the annual meeting by messengers and funds, leadership training, missions, and higher education ministries of Baptists in Mississippi and among Southern Baptists around the world. May giving was \$292,208 more than that given in May 1988.

Idleness travels very slowly, and poverty soon overtakes her. — John Hunter.

Franklin County calls DOM

J. B. Gray, 71, has been called as the first full time director of missions for Franklin Baptist Association. He had served as interim since October.



Gray

He retired in 1981 from a bi-vocational career as principal of an elementary school in East Point, Fla., where he was also pastor of First Church there and a mission on St. George Island.

He and his wife, Martha Jones Gray, returned to her native Franklin County where he became active as association clerk and as interim of three county churches. They celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary last year.

Gray is a graduate of Mississippi College with bachelor's and master's degrees in education.

The associational office is in the old Bude Baptist Church which the city had bought and which was bid back to the association. The association is readying a clothing and food ministry at the new office.

Central Hills RA dates still open

Dan West, manager of Central Hills Baptist Retreat near Kosciusko, reports that Royal Ambassador camp dates are still open for registration.

RA camp dates ahead include June 19-23, June 26-30, July 5-7, July 10-14, July 17-21, July 24-28, and July 31-Aug. 4.

The mini-camp date of July 7-8 has openings, as do the two Dad/Lad weekends on June 23-24 and July 21-22.

To register, contact West at Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Box 237, Kosciusko, MS 39090, or phone 289-9730 for details.

Stetson gets \$2.08 million

DELAND, Fla. (BP) — A \$2.08 million gift from the M.E. Rinker Sr. Foundation of West Palm Beach, Fla., will fund a new institute for tax and accountancy in Stetson University's School of Business Administration.

The total gift currently pledged is nearly \$3 million when added to a prior 1986 commitment from the Rinker Companies Foundation, Stetson officials said.

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J. R. Noonkester retires at William Carey College

By Tim Nicholas

At the retirement banquet for William Carey College President J. Ralph Noonkester in Hattiesburg last week, trustee chairman Joe Dale announced that the trustees had voted to name Noonkester president emeritus.

Noonkester, 65, retired from Carey after 33 years as president and another four years on staff.

The audience also heard that Noonkester and his wife Naomi were receiving from friends of the college a 1989 Oldsmobile.

Tributes were delivered from Aubrey Lucas, president of the University of Southern Mississippi; Luther Boyd, a former Carey trustee chairman; Marjorie Kelly, former vice president for public relations at Carey; Obra Quave, president of the Carey faculty senate; and Joe Tuten, chairman of Carey's development board.

Tuten congratulated Noonkester that he had "not built a religious wall around this college to keep the people of the community out for fear that some uncircumcised folks might religiously contaminate the grounds and halls of this Christian college."

"You've invited them . . . to come and break bread together. That is exactly what 2,000 churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention are doing every week — or are supposed to be doing."

Tuten added, "Thank you, Ralph, for refusing to play to the super pious in the Baptist grandstand. Thank you for refusing to turn this school into a Baptist monastery."

Noonkester offered his own commentary during the banquet, issuing a warning to those who follow him, referring to troubles at the school which have included accusations of fiscal and administrative mismanagement. He said what has been happening at Carey is a microcosm of what is happening in the Southern Baptist Convention.

He said he has always felt that Christian living is an art form. "Those who are currently ascendant in the Southern Baptist Convention, whether they will admit it or not, clearly believe that Christian living is not an art but a science," said Noonkester.

"Drunk on spiritual pride, they wish

to reduce the remarkable complexities of life to a few simple rules and consign those who disagree with them to the flames of hell, or worse, to the dreaded label, 'not spiritual.' For them Christianity is not a gift . . . but a rigid and ideologically pure system whose members are judged not by their character but by their willingness to conform."

Noonkester said the danger for both the SBC and Carey in the coming years is "irrelevance. The insistence on rigidity and ideological purity leads to separation and shrinkage, in short, a sectarian message which the world at large simply ignores because it has no relevance for lives in the 21st Century."

He added, "I implore those who remain behind to see that it (Carey) does not become an institution which burns the bridges of contact to the world at large and wrings its hands at

the complexities of life and forgets the liberating power of education in the Christian tradition."

Noonkester told the crowd that he and his wife planned to retire in Hattiesburg.

Prior to the banquet, Noonkester was asked by the Baptist Record to enumerate what he felt were the major accomplishments during his tenure. His list was as follows:

"The regional accreditation of the college, 1958

"The construction of 20 buildings on the Hattiesburg and Gulfport campuses, 1957-88

"Increase in enrolment — 124 girls in 1952 when I first joined the college as professor to 1,400 FTEs in 1988-89

"Budget growth from \$200,000 in 1956 when I assumed the presidency to \$6.3 million in 1989

"Voluntary integration of the college — first Southern Baptist college or university in the deep South — 1966 — to admit black students

"National recognition of the adult education by Harvard University in 1981

"Purchase of coast campus in 1976

"Establishment of School of Nursing at Southern Baptist Hospital in New Orleans in 1969

"Outstanding achievements of graduates: two U.S. Congressmen; many pastors in the state and beyond including two in Hattiesburg at First and Temple Baptist churches; and last year's top graduates of University of Mississippi Medical School was a Carey graduate." In addition, the school graduated many who are serving on the mission fields and in other places of denominational responsibility.

Noonkester was born in Flatridge, Va., and married to Naomi Hopkins. Their two children are Myron and Lila.

He is a graduate of Marion College and the University of Richmond. He earned the master of theology and the doctor of philosophy degrees from Southern Seminary and was awarded honorary degrees from the University of Richmond and Blue Mountain College. He is a deacon and Sunday School teacher at First Church, Hattiesburg, and has been a member or director of numerous civic groups.

David Grant will lead search committee

Joe Dale, trustee chairman of William Carey College, announced formation of a search committee to select a president to replace retiring J. Ralph Noonkester.

Chairman is David Grant of Jackson. Andy Carpenter of Biloxi is secretary. Other members are Dale of Prentiss, Robert Self of Brookhaven, Elise Curtis of Collins, John Green of Hattiesburg, and Robert Woodall of Gulfport.

To serve in a non-voting advisory capacity will be one faculty member and one student.

Grant's address is 5526 Meadow Oaks Park Drive, Jackson, MS 39211.

Additionally, Dale said the trustees will be naming an interim president at their next board meeting, June 26, where they are also expected to hear the investigative report of the Education Commission concerning fiscal and administrative problems at the Hattiesburg-based school.

In Las Vegas

Southern Baptists see 350 professions of faith

By Joe Westbury

LAS VEGAS, Nev., (BP) — As temperatures hovered in the mid-90s, about 1,800 Southern Baptists knocked on doors throughout Las Vegas, Nev., registering more than 350 professions of faith in Christ during the denomination's largest one-day witnessing effort.

Preliminary reports revealed team members also recorded a like number of other spiritual decisions, reported Howard Ramsey, director of personal evangelism for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

The event followed on the heels of a week of statewide revivals that saw the premiere of materials that will be used in next year's "Here's Hope" national simultaneous revivals sponsored by the board.

Results from the Nevada revivals are slow in being reported and will be

released as soon as they are compiled, said Richard Harris, HMB director of mass evangelism.

Names of new converts, as well as people looking for a local church, will be given to local Southern Baptist congregations. Many of the individuals are expected to become the nucleus of some of the 25 new churches to be started this year by the Nevada Baptist Convention, Harris said.

The new church starts, being coordinated by the state convention and the mission board, dovetail with the denomination's goal of having 50,000 churches and church-type missions by the year 2000 — an increase from 37,600 in 1989.

During this year's convention sessions, HMB and Nevada Baptist officials are expected to announce the

(Continued on page 5)

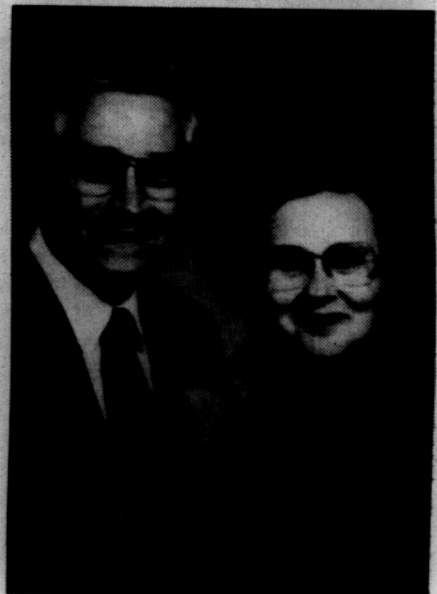
Hillcrest Church, Jackson, to honor Clayton on retirement

Hillcrest Church, Jackson, will honor Maurice Clayton and his wife, Mary, on his retirement, Sunday, June 18. The activities will include homecoming with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., worship services at 10:15 a.m., and dinner on the grounds at noon. Bill Wilson, pastor, Brentwood Church, Nashville, Tenn., will speak during the 10:15 a.m. service. A reception will be held for the Claytons in the church parlor at 1:15 p.m. Clayton will retire on June 30 after serving 22½ years at Hillcrest Church.

Clayton, a native of Tupelo, attended school in Center, Lexington, and New Albany. He entered the Navy in 1943 and while in officer's training he attended the University of Texas and University of Oklahoma. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and received the master's degree from Southwestern Seminary.

He has been pastor of Hickory Ridge Church, Florence; First Church, Sherman; First Church, Tunica; and Southside Church, Meridian.

The Claytons have two children, Marcelle Duncan and Sam Clayton. They have three grandchildren.



Maurice and Mary Clayton

Executive Committee votes to buy bush hog for Gulfshore

In a private business and fellowship dinner meeting, the Executive Committee of the convention board approved purchase of a bush hog for Gulfshore, desktop publishing equipment for the Baptist Building, and approved spending out of fund balance any expenses Bill Causey incurs during the transition time as he begins work as executive director-treasurer.

The bush hog model TH60-01 will be

purchased from C&W, Inc. at a cost of \$1,298.50 from fund balance. And the desktop equipment will cost \$43,363 to come from Management Information System accounts.

Replacing unexpired terms as board members, Max Price of Smith Association, James Fancher of Lawrence, and Tanner Riley of Oktibeha, were elected.

Bivocational ministers' meets planned

Area bivocational ministers' meetings will take place in nine places in June and July. At each, there will be election of officers, fellowship, and food.

The places, dates, contact persons, and phone numbers follow.

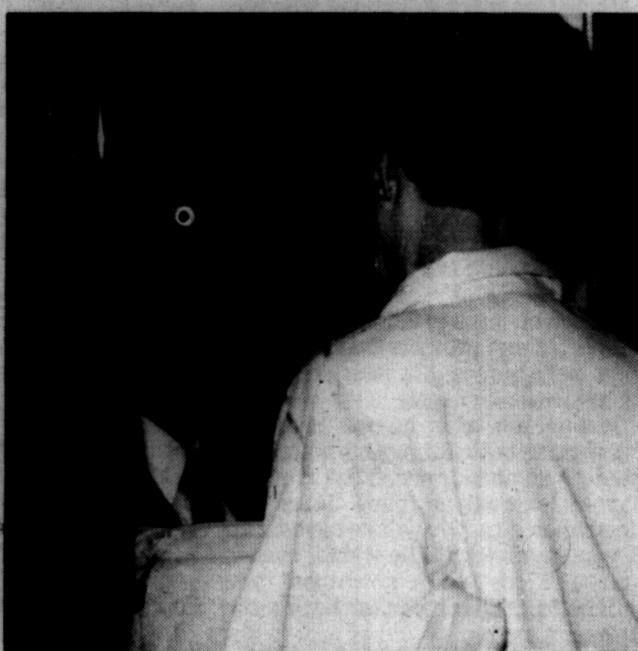
Looxahoma Church, June 23 at 6:30 p.m., Louis Milton Thornton, 562-6114; Crestwood Church, June 24 at 8:30 a.m., Doyle Ferrell, 728-5886; Schlater Church, June 30 at 6:30 p.m., Bobby Turner, 658-4697;

Traceway Restaurant at Mathiston, July 1 at 8:30 a.m., Charles Gordon, 285-6296 or 285-5611; Pocahontas Church, July 14 at 6:30 p.m., Dolton Haggan, 982-2305; Scott Association Center, July 13 at 6:30 p.m., Holmes Carlisle, 732-8414 or 469-1951;

First Church, Bude, July 7 at 6:30 p.m., Richard Ivey, 384-2326; Jeff Davis Association Center, July 8 at 8:30 a.m., Kenneth Stringer, 765-4689 or 765-6683; and Bond Church, July 8 at 12:30 p.m., John Wade, 928-6086.



Joe Dale, trustee chairman, left, presents a plaque of appreciation to J. Ralph Noonkester, center, retiring president of William Carey College, Noonkester's wife, Naomi, is seated at right.



At the retirement banquet in his honor, J. Ralph Noonkester receives congratulations from a guest.



Big Creek Church, Wayne County, recently held a Coronation Service for its Acteens and GAs. In a candle light service there were eight GAs and eight Acteens who were recognized for achievements. They were assisted by the RAs who acted as candle lighters and crown bearers and two younger GA girls were flower girls. GAs receiving badges were Rachel Cochran,

Sabrina Williams, Vanessa Adams, Carrie Hutto, and Schlee Bunch. Acteens receiving crowns were Sierra Beard, Renee Cochran, Marie Adams, and Rexanna Ferguson. Those receiving capes were Belinda Shows, Stephanie Williams, Heather Freeman, and Bronwynn Cherry.

Park Place Church, Brandon, will have Vacation Bible School, June 19-23, for children in grades one through six from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Youth, grades seven through college will meet every evening 7-9. Bobby Williamson is pastor.

MEMPHIS — Tours, displays, gifts, clowns, door prizes and a magician will highlight the public grand opening and tours of Baptist Memorial Hospital East's new birthing and infant care facilities on Saturday, June 17 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Springfield Church, Natchez, will hold Vacation Bible School, June 19-23. Family night will be June 25. Michael Townsend is pastor.


One thing a mother must save for a rainy day is patience.—The Clinton (Tenn.) Courier-News

Griffin Street Church, Moss Point, had a recognition service for its RAs, GAs, and Mission Friends. The theme was "Welcome to the Second Century, We are Aware." GAs pictured, front row (left to right) are Letisha Coleman, Krista Fernberg, and Cary Watts; second row, Karla Kimmons and Stacy Black.



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Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld. The withholding of names will be at the discretion of the editor.

Read, ask, speak

Editor:

I recently have read a most informative booklet entitled *The Takeover In The Southern Baptist Convention*, edited by Dr. Robison James. The booklet is available for only \$3 (plus \$1.15 postage and handling), and may be obtained by sending an order to "The Takeover in the SBC," 16th and O Streets N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Dr. James' booklet, candidly written from the "moderate-conservative" perspective, carefully explains in a concise but well-documented manner the history of the conflict that has so plagued our denomination since 1979. As a Southern Baptist layman, I particularly appreciate the no-nonsense discussion of the direction in which our convention has been moving, and the implications for our future if the present course is not altered.

Dr. James admonishes his readers to "read widely, ask hard questions, and speak without being intimidated." Concerned Baptists of various viewpoints and beliefs would do well to begin the first element of this equation by reading *The Takeover*. There is no peace and no healing without the truth (Jer. 8:11).

Greg Snowden
Meridian

Ambition is the avarice of power; and happiness herself is soon sacrificed to that very lust of dominion which was first encouraged only as the best means of obtaining it. — Caleb Colton.

Abortion is murder

It is my feeling that 25 million Americans have been brutally murdered here since 1973. I think that no matter what our Supreme Court or any other courts or persons may say or think about it, abortion is murder and it should be stopped. I never thought that I would see the day that the police and other law enforcement officers in our nation would have to aid and abet murderers murdering babies in murder chambers, but I believe that that is exactly what they are doing when they guard and protect abortion clinics. Unborn fetuses which are still in the mothers' wombs are live human beings in my way of thinking, and I feel that any doctors or other persons who take away those lives are murderers; and I think the same is true concerning judges, nursing, pregnant women, and other persons responsible for abortions. I wonder, also, if we who stand idly by and allow it to go on are not accomplices to murder. I don't understand the apathy on the part of so many of us professed Christians toward abortion. I see it as an evil even though our nation is trying to call it good. I don't buy the theory that a pregnant woman has a right to do what she wants to do with her body when there is another live body within hers. I don't advocate violence and I don't advocate breaking of laws. I have read Romans 13 and know we are to respect civil law. But I have also read Acts 5:29 and I know that we are to obey God rather than men. Our first loyalty is to God and his laws are higher than the laws of any nation. I

hate to think of the calamity that will befall our nation if this practice is allowed to go on. We had better be praying and working to stop it.

Walter McCraw
Long Beach

Eternal security

Editor:

I would like to agree and disagree with Bro. Hobbs on his article on May 11. I agree with him on the security of the believer. I have read verses on top of verses on the security of the believer. I don't remember reading any verses on one not being able to lose his salvation or falling from grace.

In Matt. 7:21-24, is this not people who have been saved but turned from Jesus Christ? In Matt. 12:43-45, is this not what happens to the one who has been cleansed of sin and then returns to the world and away from God? In the parable of the sower, were they not all saved but returned in the ways of sin, all but the last seeds — these are the believers. These are the ones whom the gates of hell will not prevail against.

In Hebrews 6:4-6, Paul tells what to do if one should fall from grace. God does not force anyone to follow him. A person chooses to follow Christ, and God helps and protects that person as long as he does his best to follow Jesus.

If a person, after he has been saved, returns to the things of this world, he does so on his own. That is why I say, as long as you follow Jesus and depend on him, you will be saved. But if you turn back to the world, even if you're saved, and do not repent, you will be lost. Thank you for letting me have my say.

John D. Cannon Jr.
Iuka

Thank you for having your say; but check again Matt. 7:23, in which he said, "I never knew you." — Editor

Mothers and daughters

Ten mothers and daughters from Bethany Church, Prentiss, were participants in a recent mother and daughter weekend at Camp Garaywa. This was the largest group ever to attend that weekend from that church and the only group from Jeff Davis Association to be there for that week. Another mother and daughter weekend is scheduled at Garaywa June 23 and 24.

Wedding at Midway

(Continued from page 2)

Church, Clinton. The two met at a dinner which a group from that church gave for international students, at the home of Mrs. Lewis Nobles. Mrs. McCollum substituted in the wedding as the bride's mother. Mrs. J. S. Conerly of Jackson, in whose home Edward has lived for a year, substituted as the groom's mother.

During their honeymoon in Texas, Edward and Shary visited with James Draper, former SBC president who is pastor at Euless. Once when Draper conducted an evangelistic crusade in Taiwan, Shary was his translator/interpreter.

Now the newlyweds have registered at Mississippi College and are moving into Fairmont, an unfurnished apartment for ministerial students. He plans to study principalship and supervision this summer and fall as he works on a master of education degree. She will seek a master of arts degree there. Then they plan to study at Southwestern Seminary, he for a doctor of ministry degree and she for a master of religious education.

Midway Church gave the Shimrays a shower last week, of items they needed for housekeeping. Already others had given them used furniture — a bed, a table, a chest of drawers, four chairs, and a wok. I have an invitation — when they get settled — to come and sample their Chinese cooking. And I can hardly wait!

Not only did God bring them together, but he is providing for their every need.

In Las Vegas Attorney cites ways to cut liability

(Continued from page 3)

launch of 15 of those new congregations.

Individuals from 38 states and the District of Columbia participated in the door-to-door evangelistic thrust, Ramsey said.

Texas fielded the most participants, with 178. Hawaii, the most distant state, registered 32 individuals with the board, which coordinated the efforts.

In ethnic participation, a group from several states representing the Hispanic Baptist Pastors' Conference made visits in the largely Hispanic section of Las Vegas.

Stan Clark, Mission Service Corps volunteer from Toledo, Ohio, said nearly 100,000 of the city's 160,000 households were contacted during the visitation effort. Clark and his wife, Beverly, have spearheaded the event locally since January.

The saturation visitation was limited to Las Vegas-area neighborhoods and avoided tourist areas on the "Strip" known for its elaborate casinos.

Though local ordinances restrict any solicitation inside the establishments, Ramsey said the evangelistic effort purposefully avoided the sidewalks to concentrate on the neighborhoods.

Revivals in 90 of Nevada's 120 Southern Baptist churches and missions, preceded the visitation effort, Harris said. The partially sponsored 32 full-time evangelists to help conduct the revivals, while pastors and lay people from around the country filled the remaining pulpits.

BSU commissions missionaries

On April 20, 1989, the Baptist Student Union at the University of Southern Mississippi held an installation and commissioning service for its 1989-90 Executive Council and summer missionaries, church and camp workers and short-term mission team. The theme for the service was "Salt and Light," referring to the scripture from Matthew 5:13-16.

The charge to the new Council was given by Mark Lott, former Minister of Education at 38th Avenue Baptist Church in Hattiesburg, and former Chairman of the USM BSU Advisory Committee. He has recently moved to Pace, Fla., to accept a church staff position there. The missionaries were commissioned by Mrs. Bobbie Travis, a former USM BSUer, member of First Church, Hattiesburg, and Baptist Women's Director for Lebanon Association.

Members of the 1989-90 Executive Council are: Christi Gray, Florence; Brett Campbell, Chunky; Kelly Baker, Senatobia; Jennifer Pittman, Brandon; Ann Tullos, Columbia; Jon Kittrell, Hattiesburg; Leigh Ann Willcox, Slidell, La.; Steve Parten, Pearl; James Milner, Lena; Suzy Parkerson, Pearl; Kenny McCollough, Brandon; Jennifer Moore, Pearl; Shannon Gunnels, Slidell, La.; and Brian Bosarge, Long Beach.

Summer church and camp workers are: Tim Smith, Youth Director, FBC, Soso; Colleen McGee, Gulfshore; Leigh Ann Willcox, Ridgecrest; Steve Parten, Central Hills; Sherry Southern and Jamie Conner, Innovators, Yellowstone National Park; Michelle Gray, Regell Gray, Susie Seal, Suzy Parkerson, and Jennifer Moore, Camp Garaywa.

The Ten USM BSU summer missionaries and their fields of service are: Christi Gray, Philippines;

By Jacqueline Kersh
DELAND, Fla. (BP) — Church leaders are not helpless in today's lawsuit-prone society, Sanford, Fla., attorney William Colbert told participants in the Church and the Law Conference at Stetson University here. He listed several preventive measures as examples:

— Against inadequate supervision charges, churches should have a written policy on the ratio of supervising adults to participants in any sponsored activity and follow the policy at all times, Colbert urged.

— Against grounds and building liability, be alert to hazards, such as a water hose across the walkway, drama props blocking doorways, burned-out light bulbs on stairways, missing or malfunctioning fire extinguishers, protruding bolts or jagged edges on playground equipment and lack of handrails. Ask the kind of questions lawyers would ask if someone got hurt, then do some maintenance, he said.

— Against hazardous activities, such as hayrides and obstacle courses, take extra precautions, like using an unpaved road for the hayride, following the vehicle with a car and having the vehicle owner drive it. Use common sense and consider doing something less hazardous, Colbert stressed. Parent-consent and waiver-of-liability forms can be useful to ensure that a parent knows what the child is doing, but the form does not absolve the church of all responsibility, he said. Ask an attorney to draft the form, and use a new one for each activity, he added.

— Against vehicle liability, have the vehicle inspected often, keep it in top condition, be certain the driver is licensed and has a good driving record, and check insurance coverage, Colbert noted.

— Against employee negligence, be careful who is hired; check references; obtain permission to check credit and arrest records; use a written application form regardless of the position; have job descriptions for every job; get rid of any employee not doing the job, he said. Any full-time or part-time worker, if paid, is considered an employee. In sexual harassment cases, remember it is not what is actually said or done, but how the victim perceives it, he explained.

— Against inadequate insurance coverage, know what the church assets are and what replacement costs would be; identify potential liabilities; be sure everyone — pastor, staff, members — is covered; add a rider to the church policy covering ministerial counseling liability and personal business property located on church premises; consider special coverages such as disability and accident, he said.

Jacqueline Kersh is director of public relations at Stetson.

Church liability suits real danger, attorney warns pastors, lay leaders

By Jacqueline Kersh

DELAND, Fla. (BP) — A caster falls off of the church piano and a five-year-old boy is injured. The result: a \$90,000 settlement against the church.

A church member is hurt in a fall on the sanctuary steps. The result: a \$78,000 judgment against the church.

A visiting evangelist is shot by a member of the congregation. The result: \$135,000 against the church.

A youngster is injured running a church-sponsored obstacle course and becomes a quadriplegic. The result: a \$2 million judgment against the church.

A litany of recent church-related liability cases was recited by attorney William Colbert of Sanford, Fla., to more than 40 Florida pastors and lay leaders participating in the Church and Law Conference May 4 at Stetson University here.

Colbert's illustrations made one point clear to conference participants — churches, pastors, and staff members can be sued and can be found liable.

Speaking on the topic "Issues of the Pastorate and Liability," Colbert, chairman of deacons for First Church, Sanford, warned that pastor malpractice "is particularly in vogue."

"You need to be sensitive to it and equipped to deal with it," Colbert said, citing a California case, Nally v.

Grace Community Church of the Valley.

In that case, a non-therapist counselor who gave advice to a suicidally inclined person was not held liable when the person killed himself. The case, just concluded after 10 years of litigation, is both a reassurance and a warning, Colbert said. Because the case involved the issue of pastoral counseling and was decided in favor of the church, many see it as vindication, Colbert said. He warned, however, that the case was decided only on the basis of a particular set of facts. Different facts easily could result in a different decision.

"Do not believe there is nothing you can do in a counseling capacity for which you can be held liable," Colbert said.

He also urged participants not to assume that churches are immune from suits brought by members. "Many would never think of it, but a few may not be of the same mind," he said.

Participants were told they would have an insurance committee no matter the size of the church to determine adequate coverage; plus personnel committees, house and grounds, and transportation committees.

—30—
Jacqueline Kersh is director of public relations for Stetson University.

Veonne Poole, Taiwan; Ethan McCarthy, Philippines; Jon Kittrell, Tennessee; Brett Campbell, Canada; Stacy Broadwater, Maryland; Selena Mangum, Delaware; Wes Barrett, Alaska; Brian Bosarge, Hawaii; and Nicole Hensley, Hawaii.



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10:15 - Pastor Appreciation Service

12:00 - Dinner on the ground

1:15 - Reception

Mathis will lead conference on discipleship

Robert Mathis, professor of church administration and religious education at New Orleans Seminary, will be a conference leader for the Church Training Conference at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, July 13-15.

Mathis will lead a "Friday morning only" conference for pastors and ministers of education. Some will be there for the three-day conference but others may drive in for this spiritual conference on "The Dynamics of Discipleship Training."

Mathis will discuss ideas behind the theology of discipleship as well as principles of growth for churches which have an intentional purpose of developing and growing a discipleship training program in their churches, according to Mose Dangerfield, Church Training Department director.

Pastors and ministers of education who drive in for the conference pay only \$6.25. This includes lunch and the commuter conference fee.

Write or call the Church Training Department, Baptist Building, for further information. Norman Rodgers is Gulfshore program director for the conference. The number is 968-3800.



Mathis

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Mississippi Baptist activities

June 23-24 First and Second Grade GA Mother/Daughter
Overnight; Camp Garaywa; 4 pm, 23rd-12:30 pm,
24th (WMU)

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

Have a problem? seek God's guidance

By Greg Martin

Judges 13:2-5, 8, 17-20

Do you have a problem? Need advice? There are many places you can turn for an answer. Some turn to fortune-tellers. Others look to their daily horoscope. Lately these two methods of discovering guidance have become a multi-billion dollar business. Both are condemned in the Bible (Deuteronomy 18:10-14, Isaiah 47:8-15).



Martin

If you need help, you can always turn to the advice columns in your local newspaper. These, too, are extremely popular.

The fact that people want and need counsel is undeniable. People seek counsel in business, law, health, finance, relationships, and other areas.

Where is the best place to get proper, sound, bedrock advice and guidance? It is in the Lord. James 1:5 admonishes us to ask God for wisdom if we need help.

In the 13th chapter of Judges, Israel needed

LIFE AND WORK

help. The nation had been under the bondage of the Philistines for 40 years. During that time there was no word from God, no guidance. Then God spoke to Manoah and his barren wife about a child she was to bear who would deliver God's oppressed people. His name would be Samson. From their encounter with the angel of the Lord, we learn that we as believers are to accept God's guidance as we seek to serve him in our daily lives.

In verses 2-3 the angel of the Lord appeared to the woman with good news. He told her that she would soon conceive and give birth to a son. The implication is that Manoah's wife had been barren for many years. Such a status was equated in that culture with being displeasing to the Lord. The news of a child was good news for Manoah's wife. It was news that God was concerned with her daily living. We need to be reminded that he still is today.

The angel of the Lord gave specific instruction for the woman as she carried the child in her womb, verses 4-5. She was to drink no wine

or strong drink. She was forbidden to eat any unclean food. After the child was born he was to never have his hair cut because he was to be a Nazarite to God. From these detailed instructions we can learn that a person's acceptance of God's guidance is verified by heeding his specific instructions.

After this encounter with the angel of the Lord, the woman found her husband and told him what happened and what was said. Manoah went to the Lord in prayer. He asked God to let the "man of God" (angel of the Lord) appear again for further instructions (verse 8). In this prayer we can learn that consciously seeking God in prayer is essential to gaining his guidance.

God honored Manoah's request when the angel of the Lord appeared unto him a few days later (verses 17-20). Manoah, unaware that the encounter was with the angel of the Lord, asked what the man's name was, so he could honor him. The angel of the Lord referred to himself as wonderful or incomprehensible. The name was beyond Manoah's understanding. He didn't realize he was talking to the angel of the Lord. Manoah proceeded to give an offering to the

Lord in appreciation for his revelation. His offering of sacrifice teaches us that worshipping God is one way of acknowledging God's guidance in our daily lives.

God received the offering as the angel of the Lord ascended in the flame from the altar. When this took place, Manoah became convinced that he had encountered God. He fell on his face in great humility. Our encounters with God and his manifestation of his guidance should strike in us a similar response.

Do you have a problem? Need advice? Need guidance? Look to the Lord and trust in him. Proverbs 3:5-6 admonishes us, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." He never leads us into confusion; he leads us only into what is best for our lives.

Charles Spurgeon once wrote, "God is too good to be unkind, too wise to be mistaken. When you can't trace the Master's hand, you can trust the Master's heart." May trust in God be our source of direction.

Martin is pastor, Commission Road, Long Beach.

Paul ministers at Malta on way to Rome

By Bert Breland

Acts 27:1-28:10

Paul's journey to Rome was not exactly a vacation. It was marked by trouble with the Jews, trials and accusations, imprisonment and



Breland

now shipwreck. To say that Paul's efforts to minister in Rome were fraught with difficulty would be a gross understatement. I suppose it would have been easy to interpret all these difficulties and barriers as a sign that God did not want Paul to minister in Rome. I am afraid that all too often Christians interpret difficult

times as God closing a door rather than as an opportunity for ministry. It is a tribute to Paul, his vision, and his courage, that he carried the gospel across all of these barriers. In the midst of these difficulties Paul was looking for ways to minister and share Christ.

Our lesson begins with Paul's expressing concern about their safety if they are to begin this voyage so close to winter. However, his advice

BIBLE BOOK

was overlooked because the captain of the ship had a port in mind where he would rather spend the winter months. Therefore, they set sail and just as Paul feared, they sailed right into trouble.

Luke went into great detail describing the storm and the crew's reaction. This detail was possible because Luke was there with Paul. If you note in the first verse of chapter 27, Luke began to use "we" as he described the events of this voyage.

Luke did not record Paul as having said anything until the point had been reached where the people felt all was lost. It was then that Paul seized the opportune moment to declare good news to the men. However, he, like most of us, could not resist the temptation to say, "I told you so." He reminded them that he had warned them not to sail at that time of year. He didn't dwell long on that point, and quickly offered them a word of hope. Paul's message of hope was also an opportunity to witness to these

Romans, sailors, and fellow prisoners concerning the true God.

Even though Paul was a prisoner on this ship, it appears that he had taken control of the situation. He apparently kept the men calm and prevented them from reacting rashly to their dire circumstances. One further evidence of Paul's importance, as well as his innocence, was the fact that Julius refused to allow the soldiers to kill all the prisoners in order that he could save Paul. The soldier's desire to kill them all seems extreme to us; but if they allowed any to escape, they would pay with their own lives. Therefore, the safest thing for them would be to kill all prisoners so that no one could escape. Possibly another reason that Julius did not want Paul dead was because he was so dependent on his courage and leadership and maybe even his faith.

Following the shipwreck, as Paul had promised, all survived and made it safely to shore. Upon shore they realized that they were on the island of Malta. They found the people of Malta to be kind and friendly, having quickly met their immediate need for warmth. One of the most interesting parts of this story was Paul's

experience in carrying in some firewood. As one of the prisoners, he was probably forced to carry wood; and while doing so he was bitten by a snake. The people of Malta interpreted this as an omen that he must be a murderer. Why do you suppose they would jump to such a conclusion? Most likely it was because Paul was a prisoner. He was probably in chains at the time, and they did not know what he had done. They presumed that the death that he should have experienced in the sea was about to come about through the serpent. However, they changed their tune drastically when they realized that Paul was unaffected by the snake bite. They then began to say that he was a god.

Luke does not tell us that this was a miracle, but it certainly seemed to be to all those who were watching. Having gained the respect of these people, the door was open for him to witness to them through the ministry of prayer for the sick. I am sure that Paul's prayer for Publius left no doubt in their minds that he was not able to heal, but that he looked to a higher power which was Jesus Christ.

Breland is pastor, North Greenwood Church, Greenwood.

God keeps his promises without fail

By Gary G. Berry

Joshua 21:43-22:6

God always keeps his promises. Much of the fretting and fussing done by the people of God could be eliminated with the assurance that



Berry

"the Lord is not slack concerning his promises" (II Peter 3:9). The statement found in Joshua 21:43 summarizes the first part of the book of Joshua and emphasizes its basic message: "The Lord gave to Israel the whole country which he had promised by oath to give to their forefathers."

One should not overlook the fact that God had promised to give the land of Israel. The land would not be earned or purchased. The giving of the land was in fulfillment of the oath God made to the forefathers of these children of Israel (See Joshua 1:6; Genesis 24:7; 26:3; and 50:24).

In addition to giving Israel the land, God gave them rest and every "good thing" (verses 44-45). He even gave them strength to defeat their enemies even as he had promised (Joshua

UNIFORM

1:5). The promises of God did not fail to come to pass (verses 45).

Occasionally we receive pointed reminders of the faithfulness of God. These reminders renew our confidence in every promise he has made. In a rather "sticky" situation, God spoke to this writer through the scriptures with a clear and bold promise about a solution. Within three weeks the promise was fulfilled exactly. Perhaps many will be encouraged to know that God still keeps his promises.

Obedience to God is an essential part of seeing the promises of God fulfilled. Joshua urged the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh to keep God's law just as Moses commanded (22:1-5). These tribes had been specifically charged to do that before the conquest (Joshua 1:12-18). They had been faithful and must continue to be obedient. These two and a half tribes had already been allotted their inheritance in the Transjordan by Moses (see Numbers 32). They were responsible, however, for helping their fellow Israelites

move into the promised land. The purpose of addressing them specifically here seems to be to emphasize the unity and mutual support required of all Israel to possess the land.

The reminder to obey applied to all of Israel, not only to the two and a half tribes. The appeal has several aspects, all of which are as relevant today as in Joshua's time (verse 5). To live the Christian life includes: (1) "taking diligent heed", or extra care, to do the commandments of the Lord, (2) loving the Lord your God, (3) walking in all his ways, (4) keep-

ing his commandments, (5) holding firmly (cleaving) to him, and (6) serving him with all heart and soul (22:5).

That verse makes it clear that the fulfillment of God's promises is realized by those who are in the relationship with God. In that personal relationship, one learns to rely upon him and obey him. The old hymn we sing says it well: "Trust and obey, for there's no other way" to experience the blessings which come as God's promises are fulfilled.

Berry is pastor, Temple, Hattiesburg.

Legion of honor created for RA workers

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — (BP) State and national leaders of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission have approved the Royal Ambassador International Legion of Honor for volunteer adult workers in Royal Ambassadors, a missions education program for boys in grades 19.

The Legion of Honor will recognize personal involvement and years of service of dedicated adult RA workers, provide a means of support to further the work of RAs in the world, and pro-

vide fellowship opportunities for RA leaders, Brotherhood Commission leaders said.

Membership in the Legion of Honor is open to any man or woman who has five years of continuous service in RA work at the church, state, national, or international levels. Applicants must be recommended by the local churches, and/or state Brotherhood departments for membership and provide a one-time contribution to the organization.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

Jan. 16, 1989- Mar. 9, 1989 MEMORIALS

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Mrs. Frankie H. Tate
Mrs. Edith Aldridge
David Taylor
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"For our fight is not against any physical enemy; it is against organizations and powers that are spiritual. We are up against the unseen power that controls this dark world and spiritual agents from the very headquarters of evil". (Phillips-Ephesians 6:12)

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Names in the news

HMB commissions 104 students for summer church starting

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — In a Home Mission Board Praxis commissioning service, Texas pastor Joel Gregory urged seminary students to dispel ignorance about the Christian gospel by starting churches.

Gregory, pastor of Travis Avenue Church here, addressed 104 students during a joint commissioning service for Praxis participants from the six Southern Baptist seminaries. The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and seminaries cooperate to send student church-starting teams across America through the Praxis program each summer.

The name "Praxis" refers to the

point at which learning and practice intersect.

The Home Mission Board sends Praxis participants for 10 weeks of ministry in communities targeted for church starts. Mark Clifton, national Praxis coordinator, likened the students to Marines. "They hit the beachhead before anyone else gets there," he said.

Gregory warned the students they will encounter ignorance of the gospel in this task. "Most people do not know the elements of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ — not even the simplest things about it," he said.

Although the United States has more ordained ministers than any

other nation and is saturated with Christian literature, "you can stand on a corner of this church property and throw a rock and hit a house where the residents do not know the simplest elements of the gospel," he said.

"Make the simple message clear. Don't fool yourself into thinking they all already know it."

"I hope as you go out you carve a niche. It doesn't have to be a big niche, but a niche that when you leave there, you could say they heard the word of the Lord."

This summer, Praxis teams will work with 19 state Baptist conventions from California to New York.



Lexie Church, Walthall County, honored its mothers on Mother's Day. Pictured, receiving special recognition for having the highest attendance in Sunday School is Betty Dillon (right) and for Church Training is Florence Smith (left). They were presented a necklace with an engraved pendant by Sheila Conerly, family life director.

Southaven, his home church. He received the bachelor of arts degree from Mississippi College and served as pastor of Gatesville Church, Crystal Springs, for two years.

Currently he is pastor of Dawn Baptist Church, Dawn, Mo.

Glenn Nace, pastor of Kokomo Church, Kokomo, will receive a Pastoral Ministries diploma from the Seminary Extension Department, SBC, in a ceremony at the church, July 30 at 2 p.m.



Dwayne C. Doyle was licensed to the gospel ministry by Puckett Church, Puckett, on May 28. He was presented a Certificate of License by his father and pastor of Puckett Church, Alvin C. Doyle.

Dwayne, who recently finished his freshman year at Mississippi College will be serving as a Student Summer Missionary in Billings, Montana at Pyramid Baptist Church.

"Churches that flee to suburbia defy 'whosoever will' doctrine"

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — Baptist churches that flee to suburbia for bigger, more ornate facilities stand in open defiance of the "whosoever will" doctrine, said research consultant Chris McNairy.

"It is ironic that the projected image of the 21st century Baptist church is almost identical to that of the 19th century Catholic church — a limited number of large selfish church memberships with large church facilities whose only outreach to those outside its walls is the sign with the church's name," McNairy said.

McNairy spoke during the Baptist World Alliance's North American Baptist Men's Fellowship meeting at Graceland Church here.

"Claiming the Cities for Christ" was the theme of the meeting. The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission was host for the meeting,

which attracted about 150 men from seven Baptist denominations in the United States and Canada.

McNairy was raised in the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. and ordained by the Progressive National Baptist Convention. When he moved to Memphis several years ago, he found his niche for Christian service when he discovered Southern Baptists, he said.

He is a bivocational assistant pastor of Westhaven Baptist Church. He has written a manuscript on black urban church growth after visiting 20 North American cities.

"We love to preach at the city, but we somehow avoid preaching to the city," said McNairy. "If we preached to the city, we would feel the hurt of an 11-year-old girl who finds herself in the delivery room of the maternity ward."

To win the cities, McNairy said,

Baptists will need the vision, initiative and compassion to lift up Jesus.

His challenge to lift up Jesus was echoed by Walter Cade, outgoing North American Baptist Men's Fellowship president. "When we lift up Jesus we will draw all men to Christ," Cade said.

The North American Baptist Men organization is faced with three challenges, said Cade, a member of Eighth Street Baptist Church in Kansas City, Kan.:

— To recognize that its harnessed power can spiritually change the problems of the world.

— To get more pastors to utilize this untapped resource of men in local churches.

— To urge its members to become strong, more aggressive witnesses for Jesus Christ in the streets.

SCRAPBOOK

Because of you, Daddy



There's a flower stand under the carport
That used to be a part of your shop.
It brings back pleasant memories
Of you, Daddy . . .

When we'd plant flower beds,
You'd say, "Mine's the prettiest,"
We knew you meant cotton,
Beautiful cotton!

"A great big flower bed," you'd say,
As you gestured with your hands
Toward the big green fields,
"Acres and acres of them."

The shades of green were lovely
In your growing plants.
We'd watch them grow and grow.
Your cotton stalks were large and tall.

And soon they were covered in squares
That had dainty lacy edges.
You'd look eagerly for them —
The source of bloom, bolls, and cotton.

First there were white flowers
And in a few days, they'd turn red,
Making your flower garden
A big beautiful bouquet.

On Sundays, after Sunday school and church,
When relatives or friends would come,

You'd proudly "show off" your fields
Of lovely white and red.

Amid your flower garden,
I'd take you cool water from the well
In a quart Mason jar,
Those moments I still treasure.

Sometimes you'd stand in the shade
Of a cherry tree by the road.
"You see these plants? I sowed and plowed.
But God made them come up and grow."

The red flowers were replaced
By round green bolls hanging on the branches
And they'd grow larger and larger,
As if decorating Christmas trees in green.

Then they'd open into large fluffy balls
Of glistening white cotton!
As if snow had covered the Christmas tree,
A fitting crown for your flower garden.

Because of you, Daddy . . .
I believe God and farmers are next-of-kin.
You saw Him in the sunshine and rain,
The growing plants and harvest yield.

— Ruby Singley
Columbia

Senior Adult Corner

Senior Adult Day was observed at First Church, Kosciusko, June 4. The theme of the day was "In the Company of Others." Senior Adults led out in the morning worship service with prayers, testimonies, and singing in the quartet and choir. A luncheon was given in honor of all senior adults by the younger Sunday School departments.

Mrs. Dot Craft was elected Senior Adult of the Year for the second time as she was chosen as the first Senior Adult of the Year in 1985. Pictured with Mrs. Craft are David Hulsey and L. Edward Gandy, pastor.

Nine hundred forty-five adults at "There were students and soldiers all around her but she was totally ignoring it. She acted like there wasn't another person anywhere around."

Senior Adult III contributed \$459 as a memorial to Bobbie Crawford of First Baptist, McComb, who was stricken with fatal heart attack the first evening of the event.

Staff changes



Smith

Jimmy Carr has resigned as pastor of Faith Church, Clay Association, and has accepted the pastorate of a church near Knoxville, Tenn.

James K. (Jim) Smith has accepted the pastorate of Mt. Gilead Church, Meridian, effective April 30. He is the former minister of education and outreach of First Church, Gautier.



Baptist Record

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The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, June 22, 1989

Published Since 1877

Fishermen sing in Costa Rica in new mission churches

By June C. Scoggins

The Fishermen, a contemporary singing group of the Mississippi State Baptist Student Union, participated in a mission project with the Baptist Mission of Costa Rica in San Jose, Costa Rica, May 20-30. The dream was born nine months ago when Angela Henderson McWhirter, a member of the Fishermen, was talking to her

sister and brother-in-law, Melinda and Russell Kyzar, music missionaries in Costa Rica.

The idea, like a seed, took root and began to grow through prayer and faith on the part of the Fishermen. There were obstacles to overcome. Permission from the Foreign Mission Board, SBC, had to be obtained.

Travel to a foreign country is expensive, and the group was required to learn at least 50 percent of their music in Spanish.

The project did become a reality. The group sang 18 concerts — mostly in new mission churches under a year old. The group also sang on campus at the Technological University of Cartago and at the Baptist Center near the University of Costa Rica, at a bi-lingual Methodist School (K-12), and at a Chinese Baptist church.

Three Backyard Bible Clubs were held at the Guarari Baptist Mission, La Guacima Mission, and Belen Baptist Church. We know of eight persons who accepted Christ as Savior as a direct result of the verbal witness and concerts by the group. Other seeds were planted and opportunities of ministry were strengthened. Twenty Spanish New Testaments were distributed to interested people.

The group stayed in the homes of Southern Baptist missionaries: Melinda and Russell Kyzar, Carol and Jimmy Johnson, Margaret and Frank Lay, and Matt Burch. A total of \$6,448.76 was given by churches and individuals for this mission project to become a reality.

June Scoggins is associate BSU director at Miss. State Univ., Starkville.



Fishermen in Costa Rica: Back row, left to right: Jean Walrath, June Scoggins, Cliff Story, Marc Walrath, Dana McArthur, Greg Collins, Bill Burnett, Jeff Stout. Front row, left to right: Gilly McMillan, Angela McWhirter, Tarea Stewart.



Convention misses out

These are the Celoria children. From left, they are Mark, 13; Matt, 13; Jon, 15; Kathy, 7; and Beth, 9. The entire Celoria family, of Jackson, was supposed to give a mini-concert during the last season of the SBC in Las Vegas. But, since the con-

vention finished its business on Thursday morning and adjourned without an afternoon session, the Celorias didn't get to sing. The kids were disappointed and the convention missed a treat. (Tim Nicholas photo)

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by Love*

*Annuity
Board Sunday
is June 25.*

Kosciusko volunteers distribute Testaments

A group of mission volunteers from First Church, Kosciusko, recently completed a project in Concordia, Kansas, which resulted in 17 new Christians, 55 prospects, and two homes opened to begin Bible studies.

The project, one of three adopted by the Attala Association for this year, was accepted by First Church which provided the underwriting and the volunteers who were led by their pastor, Ed Gandy and his wife Joan.

The assignment came from the Home Mission Board and the Smoky Hill Baptist Association in Manhattan, Kansas. The volunteers led, along with a group from Bel Aire, the sponsoring church in Salina, 60 miles away, in a door-to-door survey.

The group distributed more than 400 copies of the New Testament in visiting 600 homes.

Smoky Hill Director of Missions Les Arnold said he believed the project appeared to be the beginning of a new

church start.

Ed Gandy spoke three evenings in an auditorium at Cloud Community College with Trent England as soloist and pianist and Mrs. Nancy Edwards also as soloist.

Others participating from Mississippi included Payton and Margie Bell, Preston and Roxie Dew, James and Nancy Edwards, John and Catherine Sproles, Paul and Lucille Green, Tommy Swafford, Trent England, and Paul B. Williamson Jr.

Williamson, director of missions for Attala, said future projects include leading a construction team to Muncie, Ind., June 24-July 1, to assist in a new church auditorium for Old Town Hill Southern Baptist Church there; and an evangelism project for Tortola in the British Virgin Islands, July 14-22. A group will conduct Vacation Bible School, evangelistic services in the Cane Garden Bay Baptist Church, and do personal witnessing.

Gabler says creationists won in Texas book policy

Waco, Tex. (EP) — Creation science won a major victory as the Texas State Board of Education set its final standards for treatment of evolution biology and science textbooks, according to Mel Gabler's Education Watch Analysts, Christian providers of textbook information.

The new state policy requires textbooks to present more than one theory of evolution, a development which Gabler says will allow people who believe in divine creation to "cite them against each other and discredit them all."

The policy also requires books to examine alternative scientific evidence and ideas, present evidence to "test, verify, modify or refute" each theory of evolution discussed, and present any other "reliable scientific theories" or origins.

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

Split down the middle

The war continues.

The convention in Las Vegas last week, as were the 10 conventions ahead of it, was split down the middle. This means that only slightly more than half of those who attend conventions support the "conservative" aims at the conventions, and the others have not given up the fight.

Re-elected President Jerry Vines of Florida, in his president's address, said that "Southern Baptists have settled the issue of the Bible. Southern Baptists believe the Bible is the incorruptible Word of God." The fact is that such a concept was never an issue. Southern Baptists have always believed that the Bible is the incorruptible Word of God.

To say that the issue is settled is to say that there was a time when there was doubt, but such is not the case. If that is what we have been fighting about, we have been wasting our time.

The battle is not over the Bible. It never has been.

The battle is over philosophies, procedures, and methods.

The convention registered a few less than 20,500. On Tuesday, 19,002 voted in the presidential election. The vote was 10,754 for Vines and 8,248 for Daniel Vestal of Georgia. That was a 56.6 percent to 43.4 percent vote. It may have been the largest percentage vote ever for someone running against an incumbent. The second one-year term is almost automatic. Vestal didn't announce his availability until a couple of months before the convention.

On Wednesday, 11,232 participated in a test vote relating to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. The issue was whether or not to reconsider the budget, which had already been adopted without debate, in order to consider slashing the funding for

the Baptist Joint Committee. Adrian Rogers of Tennessee spoke in favor of the reconsideration; and, following that, Frank Ingraham, also of Tennessee, a layman, spoke against it. The vote was 6,034 to 5,198 not to reconsider the budget.

James Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee, was not allowed to speak before the vote but did make a quietly eloquent presentation following the vote in which he cleared up misconceptions that had been found in earlier statements. One was that 90 percent of the Baptist Joint Committee budget is funded by the Southern Baptist Convention while Southern Baptists make up only 30 percent of the committee's membership. The fact is that the percentage paid by the convention amounts to something more than 50 percent.

On Thursday, barely a quorum, or 5,283, voted in an effort by Gerald Harris, pastor of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, to have seven resolutions approved without debate. The effort failed by a vote of 2,648 to 2,635.

For years there have been complaints that the "conservatives" have shown up to vote for the president and then go home. Perhaps they do; but, obviously, the "moderates" do also. Regardless, the convention is left with almost a 50-50 split.

The battle is not over the Bible. It is not even a "conservative" versus "moderate" fight. The "moderates" are conservative. The only reason that their label fits them is that they represent a moderate approach to convention polity.

The battle that began as an anti-establishment backlash is over whether or not procedures and methods of more than 14 million Southern Baptists will be subject to dictation by a small cadre of people

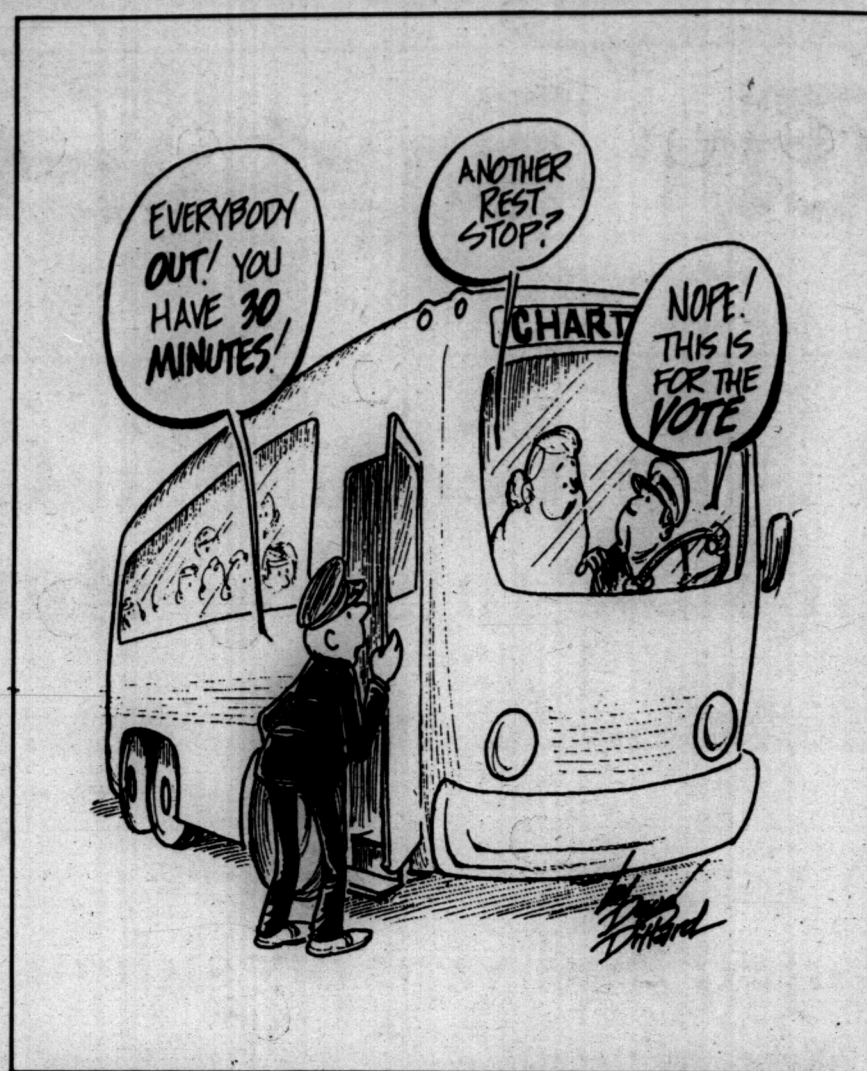
who have been able to control the vote of slightly more than half of those who attend the conventions; or whether or not convention procedures, policies, and directions will be decided by an open forum and unencumbered elections. For the past 11 conventions, the control group has swayed the elections by no more than a 60 percent vote in convention attendance of no more than 45,000. Thus have issues been decided for 14 million Southern Baptists.

It happened again this year.

An unfortunate incident thrust Mississippi into the center of the controversy this year. Mississippi's representatives on the committee on nominations could make one suggestion for the Home Mission Board and proposed that it be Tommy Vinson, pastor of Crossgates Church, Brandon. The Mississippians, Dean Register, pastor of First Church, Gulfport, and Gene Simmons, a Jackson layman, were told, however, that the nominee had to be a layman to preserve the balance on the board established by the constitution. Thus they proposed Jerry Caffey, a Gulfport layman and supposed that he was the nominee until Simmons got to Las Vegas and saw the convention bulletin for the first day. The nominee listed was Greg Martin, pastor of Commission Road Church, Long Beach. The situation has not been sorted out yet, but evidently Martin was as surprised as were the committee members.

Neither Mississippi nor any of the people involved need this kind of behind-the-scenes manipulation. The battle will go until such activity has ceased. There are indications that the manipulations are wearing thin.

In the election of officers for the Executive Committee following the con-



vention, Sam Pace of Oklahoma was elected chairman by a vote of 53 to 15, a 78 percent vote. For vice-chairman, Paul Pressler of Texas was elected by a vote of 43 to 26.

The support vote had shrunk to 62 percent.

Through the years the "conservatives" have called on the "moderates" to give up the battle because, they say, Southern Baptists have spoken. Those who have spoken, however, have been only those who attended the conventions; and then the voice has been divided.

This convention indicated that no such surrender is in sight.

Vestal, the standard bearer for the

"moderates," would not commit himself this early; but he left the door open for another run for the SBC presidency next year in New Orleans.

Rogers is known to be among the leaders of the "conservative" group. Recently he hit the target in the middle of it. He was quoted in the *Southern Baptist Advocate*, a publication of the "conservative" cause, as telling a select group of "conservatives" gathered at First Church, Atlanta, that the problem is not the "conservatives" or the "moderates." He said, "The problem is us." He said the problem will not be solved until we "put our faces in the carpet."

He is right.

The court erred

In spite of what many people feel, it seems that most decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court are made along reasonable lines. The court seems to have come up a bit short, however, on its decision to let stand a ban on prayers at high school football games in Georgia, Florida, and Alabama.

Surely there will be many who will protest that if there can be prayers before football games, then they should be allowed in the public school classrooms as well.

But there is a great deal of difference.

The football team is a small part of the gathering; and, if only the two teams were there, there would be no prayers. The people who are in the stands have paid their way into the stadiums. They are there voluntarily. They don't have to show up that early. They don't have to show up at all.

The students gathered in a public school classroom are forced to be there. It is the law. Therefore a Baptist youngster can be forced to listen to, if not participate in, a Mormon prayer or whatever.

There are those who have said that

if we can have an opening prayer in Congress, we can have an opening prayer in the public school. The principle, however, is the same. The Congress can stop having prayers anytime it wants to. If there is prayer in the public classroom, the students have no say in its termination nor who is to do the praying.

The principle of the separation of church and state should be protected. The voluntary participation, however, in prayer in a public place with voluntary attendance should not be ruled out. The court erred in that decision.

We all realize, of course, that prayer before football games is not the necessary condition. When it is present and the people want it, however, there doesn't seem to be any reason that the Supreme Court should decide that it is unconstitutional by refusing to review a case in which a lower court had declared it to be unconstitutional.

The national anthem is almost always played before football games and all other athletic contests. While the second verse is seldom used, it is

definitely a part of the anthem. A part of its states, "Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the heav'n rescued land Praise the Pow'r that hath made and preserved us a nation! Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just; And this be our motto: 'In God is our trust!'"

It is always a thrill to hear the national anthem played and sung. It should not be ruled out as a part of athletic contests because of its content.

Unfortunately, the school district used the equal access aspect of the law to justify its support of prayer before football games. It is not the same. Equal access pertains to students gathering voluntarily on school property before or after school hours for religious reasons. There is no religious significance to a football game.

In the final analysis, however, one wonders why there is prayer before a football game anyway when it is not a practice before other contests. Maybe it is felt it is more needed with football.

Hymns Baptist sing . . .

"Come, Holy Spirit, Dove Divine"

By William J. Reynolds

Adoniram Judson, the first Baptist foreign missionary from the United States, wrote the baptismal hymn about 1829, during the time he was translating the Bible into the Burmese language.

The son of a Congregational minister, Judson and his wife Ann Hasseltine, felt called to be missionaries. They sailed for India in 1812, sponsored by the Congregationalist Board of Foreign Missions. Through his study of the New Testament teaching of baptism on the sea voyage, he adopted the Baptist view. Upon his arrival in Calcutta, he was baptized by an English Baptist missionary.

Forced out of India in 1813 by the British East India Company, the Judsons settled in Burma, where they witnessed for six years before the first convert was baptized. Because of bit-

ter conflict between the British and Burmese armies, Judson was imprisoned for many months.

By 1834 he had completed the arduous task of Bible translation. He returned to the United States for a year in 1845, and his presence resulted in a great increase in Baptist interest in missionary activity. During his latter years he completed a Burmese-English dictionary. He died while on a sea voyage for his health and was buried at sea in the Bay of Bengal in 1850.

Judson wrote several hymns, but best known of his poetical writings is his hymn, "Come, Holy Spirit, Dove Divine."

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